

Message Text

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TAGS: EFIS CA JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE SEEKING JOINT FISHING VENTURES

1. SEPT 28 HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD HAD ARTICLE ON VISIT HERE OF JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE MITSUNORI YOSHIDA WHO REPORTEDLY SAID APPROACH WOULD BE MADE BY JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY TO GOC, PROBABLY BY OCT, PROPOSING COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES IN EAST COAST CANADIAN WATERS. YOSHIDA STATED THAT VARIOUS DECLARATIONS OF 200-MILE LIMITS THROUGHOUT WORLD HAVE HAD EFFECT OF REDUCING JAPANESE FISH SUPPLY IN 1977 BY 40 PERCENT. JAPAN, HE SAID, WANTS BUY MORE THAN 300,000 TONS OF CANADIAN FISH PER ANNUM BY 1985. PROPOSED COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THESE PLANNED PURCHASES.

2. KEY TO JAPANESE PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATIVE FISHING VENTURES OFF EAST COAST CANADA SEEMS TO BE USE OF JAPANESE FREEZER TRAWLERS (HALF OF WHICH, UNCLASSIFIED

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YOSHIDA SAID, WERE TIED UP BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE GET PERMISSION TO OPERATE WITHIN OTHER COUNTRIES' COASTAL REGIONS) TO FISH FOR SUCH SPECIES AS CAPELIN, ARGENTINE, SQUID, AND HAKE. PROCESSING OF THESE FISH REQUIRE USE OF FREEZER VESSELS WHICH CANADIAN FISHERMEN DO NOT AT THIS TIME POSSESS.

3. ALTHOUGH MANAGEMENT OF CANADIAN FISHERIES COMES UNDER FEDERAL RATHER THAN PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION, VIEWS OF PROVINCES AND OF FISHING INDUSTRY NATURALLY GET HEARD (IF NOT ALWAYS HEEDED) IN OTTAWA. CONSULATE GENERAL THEREFORE DECIDED MAKE QUICK SURVEY WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTAL AND INDUSTRY SOURCES WITHIN THE FOUR ATLANTIC PROVINCES TO SEE HOW THEY VIEWED THIS JAPANESE INITIATIVE. SURVEY REVEALED THAT JAPANESE FISHING INTERESTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN QUITE ACTIVE IN VISITING DEPARTMENTS OF FISHERIES AND THE MAIN FISHING COMPANIES THROUGHOUT ATLANTIC CANADA, MORE OR LESS TESTING THE WATER TO SEE HOW ACCEPTABLE TO THE CANADIANS JOINT VENTURES OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER MIGHT BE.

4. OUR OWN TESTING OF OPINION REVEALED THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF WITHIN THE PROVINCIAL GOVTS AND THE INDUSTRY THAT SOME FORMS OF JOINT VENTURES WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THOSE TO WHOM WE SPOKE HOPED THAT OHTAWA WOULD NOT SANCTION ANY JAPANESE EQUITY PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE FISHING INDUSTRY OF CANADA, BUT ONLY JOINT VENTURES OF LIMITED DURATION, OTHERS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THE THOUGHT OF SELECTED PROJECTS INVOLVING JAPANESE EQUITY PARTICIPATION OF UP TO 49 PERCENT --PROVIDED PROJECTS CLEARLY OF BENEFIT TO CANADA AND HER FISHING INDUSTRY AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT THEY HAVE PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT TO BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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INCREASINGLY CANADIANIZED.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SURVEY INDICATED THAT MAJORITY WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA FISHING INDUSTRY PERHAPS FAVOR JOINT VENTURES WITH FOREIGNERS, THERE ARE AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT -- NOT ONLY BETWEEN THE PROVINCES AND OTTAWA BUT ALSO INTERPROVINCIALY WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA. MANY HEREABOUTS, FOR EXAMPLE, BELIEVE THAT FEDERAL FISHERIES MINISTER LEBLANC IS TOO CAUTIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE IN APPROVING JOINT VENTURES. BUT WHEN HE REFUSED PERMISSION FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S LEADING FISHING COMPANY TO OPERATE A JOINT VENTURE WITH WEST GERMAN FREEZER TRAWLERS ON THE HAMILTON BANK OFF LABRADOR, NOVA SCOTIA'S FLAK WAS DIRECTED NOT SO MUCH AT LEBLANC AS AT NEWFOUNDLAND FISHING COMPANIES WHICH WERE ACCUSED OF PUTTING PRESSURE ON OTTAWA TO NIX THE VENTURE AND THEREBY KEEP THE UPSTART NOVA SCOTIANS OFF WHAT THE NEWFOUNDLANDERS HAVE COME TO THINK OF AS "THEIR" FISHING GROUNDS

6. INDEED, IF THERE CAN BE SAID TO BE ANY AREA WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA WHERE THE WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT JOINT VENTURES WITH FOREIGNERS IS "IDEOLOGICALLY"

LEAST ACCEPTABLE, THAT AREA IS PROBABLY NEWFOUNDLAND.
GIVEN THEIR DRUTHERS, THE FISHERMEN IN RICHARD CASHIN'S
FISHERMEN, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION WOULD HAVE NOTHING
TO DO WITH FOREIGNERS. THEIR VIEWS WERE PERHAPS BEST EXPRESSED
IN A ST. JOHN'S EVENING TELEGRAM EDITORIAL TO A PROPOSED JOINT
VENTURE WITH SOUTH KOREAN FISHING INTERESTS:

...A BETTER IDEA TO OUR MIND WOULD BE FOR THE FISH LOVING
NATION OF KOREA TO BUY CANADIAN FISH WHICH HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN
CANADIAN WATERS BY CANADIAN SHIPS MANNED BY CANADIAN CREWS, PROCESSED
BY CANADIAN WORKERS IN CANADIAN PLANTS AND SHIPPED BY CANADIAN FIRMS
TO KOREA FOR SALE. THE ONLY THING THE KOREANS WOULD HAVE TO WORRY
ABOUT
IS TO PAY FOR IT AND TO COOK IT.
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THAT WAY SOUNDS SO MUCH BETTER THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
SHOULD MAKE A LAW OF IT. SOMETHING SIMPLE WOULD DO, SUCH AS: YOU
WANT OUR FISH, YOU CAN BUY IT. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BUY OUR FISH,
DO WITHOUT IT, AND GET AWAY FROM THE WINDOW. END COMMENT.

7. DRAFTER: JHMOORE

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